

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 AMMAN 02101 200823Z

16

ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 CCO-00 /026 W

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O 200757Z APR 76

FM AMEMBASSY AMMAN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7622

INFO AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T AMMAN 2101

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, US, SY

SUBJECT: MESSAGE FOR THE SECRETARY FROM SENATOR MATHIAS

1. SENATOR MATHIAS, BEFORE HE LEFT AMMAN MORNING APRIL 20,
ASKED ME TO PASS ON THE FOLLOWING MESSAGE FROM HIM TO YOU:

2. BEGIN TEXT: PRESIDENT ASAD EXPRESSED WARM PERSONAL
REGARD FOR YOU AFTER CONCLUSION MEETING ON SUNDAY, BUT
STRONG TONE OF HIS OFFICIAL REMARKS AND IMPRESSIONS
RECEIVED IN JORDAN SUGGEST, SUBJECT TO AMBASSADOR
MURPHY'S ADVICE, THAT YOU CONVEY FEELING YOU EXPRESSED
TO ME THAT A SYRIAN SOLUTION WITHOUT SYRIAN ARMS IS
ACCEPTABLE. KING HUSSEIN ADVISES THAT HE WILL MEET
ASAD WITHIN A WEEK, BUT IT MIGHT BE DESIRABLE TO
CORRECT ASAD MISCONCEPTIONS PRIOR TO THAT TIME.
END TEXT.

3. SENATOR AND I BRIEFLY DISCUSSED PRESS REPORTS
WHICH COVERED PRESIDENT FORD'S STATEMENT WELCOMING
SYRIAN AND ISRAELI RESTRAINT IN LEBANON AS WELL AS NESSEN'S
STATEMENT WHICH TALKED ABOUT SYRIAN APPROACH AND
ATTITUDE.

4. AS SENATOR NOTED, KING WILL BE PLANNING A TRIP
TO DAMASCUS AT THE END OF NEXT WEEK AND COULD RE-
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INFORCE FURTHER ANY STATEMENT WHICH WE MIGHT WISH

TO MAKE TO ASAD DIRECTLY THROUGH AMBASSADOR MURPHY.
KING, PRIME MINISTER AND COMMANDER IN CHIEF BIN SHAKER
ALL REFLECTED UNCERTAINTIES AND SUSPICIONS
WHICH ASAD CONVEYED DIRECTLY TO SENATOR MATHIAS.
I PRESUME THIS GROWN OUT OF HIS TALK WITH SYRIAN
CHIEF OF STAFF SHAHABI WHO WAS HERE ON SATURDAY
AFTERNOON FOR DISCUSSIONS WITH SENIOR JORDANIANS.
SINCE ASAD'S CONCERNS ANTEDATE PREVIOUS MESSAGES
PASSED THROUGH JORDAN SOME WEEKS AGO, I WOULD LIKE
TO REINFORCE SENATOR'S MESSAGE WITH MY OWN COMMENTS
THAT JORDANIANS HAVE INDEED REFLECTED THEMSELVES A
SERIOUS CONCERN ABOUT THE SYRIAN REACTION TO OUR
ROLE AND EFFORTS IN LEBANON.

5. FOR TEL AVIV: PLEASE SHOW THIS CABLE TO SENATOR
MATHIAS.
PICKERING

SECRET

NNN

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To: STATE
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